

To deny the Holocaust is not only to desecrate the victims and abuse the survivors. It is also to deprive the world of its lessons—lessons which are as crucial today, as they were 60 years ago.

These lessons are crucial today for three urgent reasons.

First, because today, once again, the plague of anti-Semitism is raising its head. Who could have imagined, that less than 60 years after Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, the Jewish people and Israel would be targets of anti-Semitic attacks, even in the countries that witnessed the Nazi atrocities. Yet this is exactly what is happening. The Holocaust teaches us that while Jews may be the first to suffer from anti-Semitism's destructive hate. They have rarely been the last.

The lessons of the Holocaust are crucial today for a second reason: because today once again we are witnessing, against Jews and other minorities, that same process of delegitimization and dehumanization, that paved the way to destruction. Let us not forget. The brutal extermination of a people began, not with guns or tanks, but with words, systematically portraying the Jew—the other—as less than legitimate, less than human. Let us not forget this, when we find current newspapers and schoolbooks borrowing caricatures and themes from the Nazi paper *Der Stürmer*, to portray Jews and Israelis.

And finally these lessons are crucial today, because once again, we are witnessing a violent assault on the fundamental principle of the sanctity of human life. Perhaps the greatest single idea that the Bible has given to humanity, is the simple truth that every man, woman and child, is created in the divine image, and so, is of infinite value. For the Nazis, the value of a man was finite, even pitiful. How much work could he do? How much hair did she have? How many gold teeth? For the Nazis, the destruction of one human being, or of a hundred, a thousand, six million, was of no consequence. It was just a means to an evil end.

Today again, we are pitted against the forces of evil, those for whom human life—whether the civilians they target, or their own youth who they use as weapons—are of no value, nothing but a means to their goals. Our sages teach us that he who takes a single life, it is as if he has taken an entire world. No human life is less than a world. No ideology, no political agenda, can justify or excuse the deliberate taking of an innocent life.

Mr. President, for six million Jews, the State of Israel came too late. For them, and for countless others, the United Nations also came too late. But it is not too late, to renew our commitment, to the purposes for which the United Nations was founded. And it is not too late, to work for an international community that will reflect these values fully; that will be uncompromising in combating intolerance against people of all faiths and ethnicities; that will reject moral equivalence; that will call evil by its name.

We will never know whether, if the United Nations had existed then, the Holocaust could have been prevented. But this Special Session today confirms the need for the United Nations, as well as each individual member state, to rededicate to ensuring that it will never happen again. In the context, I wish to commend the Secretary General for his moral voice and leadership in bringing this Special Session to fruition, and my colleague foreign ministers, for their presence here today.

As the number of survivors shrinks all the time, we are on the brink of that moment, when the terrible event will change—from memory, to history. Let all of us gathered here pledge, never to forget the victims, never to abandon the survivors, and never to allow such an event to be repeated.

As the Foreign Minister of Israel, the sovereign state of the Jewish people, I stand before you, to swear, in the name of the victims, the survivors, and all the Jewish people: Never again.

INTRODUCTION OF POVERTY STATS LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY (D-MO), introduce legislation that requires the annual poverty estimate and the National Assessment of Educational Progress to be subject to certain guidelines on the release of the information to the public. I am deeply concerned at what appears to be the politicization of data by the Bush Administration on important issues ranging from worker safety to the dangers of lead paint to emergency contraceptives. Because data regarding poverty and educational progress are essential to lawmakers at all levels of government to implement policies addressing these issues, it is critical that this information is disseminated in an open and timely process.

Two years ago, the Census Bureau decided to break with tradition by releasing its annual poverty estimates on a Friday in Suitland, Maryland, rather than during the middle of the week at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Because that report was expected to announce the loss of millions of jobs, the questionable circumstances regarding the release of those statistics led myself and Representative Clay to seek an investigation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) as to why the Census Bureau made its decision. We should not be playing politics with science, which is why I believe this legislation is so important.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. DELOIS JACKSON WILKINSON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, as we observe Black History month, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable life of Mrs. DeLois Jackson Wilkinson of Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Wilkinson was a physical therapist, school board member and local community activist. Often referred to as "Miss Civil Rights," she was among the many brave leaders who participated in the civil rights movement to make this country a better place not only for black Americans, but for all citizens. When she passed away on Saturday, January 29, 2004

at the age of 80, our country lost a dedicated advocate and a dear friend.

Mrs. Wilkinson's energy, passion, and perseverance endeared her to all. Born in Fayette County, Tennessee in 1924, Mrs. Wilkinson was one of eight children. She attended Lemoyne College in Memphis and graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where she became a physical therapist at Meharry Medical College. She and her husband, Fred Wilkinson, had five children whom they raised during the tumultuous civil rights era and whom they struggled to protect from the harsh realities of life in the South.

Frustrated by the inequalities of segregation, Mrs. Wilkinson worked hard to ensure that she, her children and other black Americans would some day experience the joys of true freedom. She often told a story about going to a downtown department store in Nashville with her young son and passing a restaurant with a play area set up for children. Her son desperately wanted to go in, but to shield him from the harsh truth that he was not allowed, she simply told him that they were in too much of a rush. Mrs. Wilkinson recalled years later that she hated having to lie to her son. Fueled by her desire for equal rights, she helped organize sit-in demonstrations at downtown Nashville lunch counters, and in 1963 and 1983, she participated in the historic civil rights marches on Washington, DC.

As a member of the Board of Education in Nashville, Mrs. Wilkinson advocated for quality education for all children. When asked to serve as a board member, she said that the question of "why Johnny can't read needs to be answered." Because "Johnny does not teach himself," she stressed the responsibility of the school board, administration and teachers to ensure that "Johnny" and others had access to a proper education.

A tireless advocate, Mrs. Wilkinson devoted a lifetime to improving the lives of others. As we celebrate Black History Month, who better to recognize than Mrs. Wilkinson—an extraordinary Nashvillian who provided energy and a sense of purpose to her community, compassion and hope to the poor and sick, and promise for a better future to the repressed.

On behalf of the fifth district of Tennessee, I send my deepest condolences to Mrs. Wilkinson's family and loved ones. May we all take to heart the philosophy she lived by—that "every person should contribute positively during their lifetime to the betterment and spiritual life on earth."

TRIBUTE TO JERRY LEONE ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE PUBLIC POWER COUNCIL

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure it comes as no surprise to my colleagues that I have a special appreciation for those that are unafraid to speak their mind, expose absurd policies for what they are, and bluntly and forcefully announce when the emperor has no clothes.